

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Suzanne Schroeder
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

Date: July 27, 2005

News Release No.: 05-39

SIXTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PARTICIPATE IN FORUM

SACRAMENTO – Sixty extraordinary high school students from throughout California gathered today on the North Steps of the Capitol as part of an innovative five-day forum designed to assist young people with disabilities to reach their potential. Each student was selected on individual achievements and leadership qualities.

The delegates began the morning with a group photograph, followed by a meeting in the Governor's Council Room with administration representatives and discussions on a range of topics. The students, then, were given a guided tour of the building, had lunch in the basement cafeteria, and visited individual Legislator's offices.

"Tremendous strides are being made every day for the disabled to fully develop their talents and to be positive, contributing members of society," said Patrick Henning, director of the state Employment Development Department (EDD). "Every student attending this forum has many reasons to be proud. First, of your selection to attend this forum, but also for the major achievements you have made in your local community in part because of their unique experiences as people living with disabilities."

Celebrating its 14th anniversary, the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities is sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, in coordination with the EDD and other state entities. Those partners include the Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Education, California Workforce Investment Board, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, State Independent Living Council, Institute on Human Services at Sonoma State University, with financial support from Wells Fargo Foundation and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

California created the YLF concept in 1991 and was the first state to hold an YLF conference. Since then more than 33 states and Puerto Rico have followed California's lead. The primary purpose of the Forum is to prepare students with disabilities to reach their career goals, join the workforce, live independently, become involved in their communities, and continue their successes by learning from adults with disabilities who excel in their personal and professional lives.

During the forum, student delegates participated in leadership development programs, attended various sessions and panel discussions, attended demonstrations in the latest technology and assistive devices, and heard from various motivational speakers.

(more)

EDITOR'S NOTE: A list of the sixty YLF participants, listed by county of residence, follows:

Alameda County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Alan Imler	Oakland	Orion Academy
Nygel Brown	Oakland	Castlemont

Amador County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Jillian Hysell	Jackson	Argonaut

Butte County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Jennifer Lyons	Paradise	Paradise

Contra Costa County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Christine Burke	Danville	San Ramon Valley
Zazzi Cribbs	Concord	Mt. Diablo

El Dorado County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
James Knapp	Placerville	Shenandoah

Fresno County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Eddie Rea	Sanger	Sanger
Samuel Smith	Sanger	Sanger
Kayla Stanphill	Fresno	J.E. Young Academic Center

Humboldt County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Molly Hoffman	Eureka	Eureka

Kern County

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
Alec Smale	Bakersfield	Ridgeview

(more)

Los Angeles County**NAME**

Alyssa Briones
Amanda Dalziel
Andrea Ung
Angel Castelan
Brittany Bermudez
Christina Iftiger
Christopher Robles
Darin Zuckerman
Jennifer Dena
Kathleen Howell
Maria Villagrana
Michael Griggs
Sanna Ly
William Wagon
Zenani Doyle

CITY

Hacienda Heights
Palmdale
Claremont
Panorama
Saugus
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Newhall
Los Angeles
Lancaster
Lancaster
Quartz Hills
Los Angeles
Pacific Palisades
Lancaster

HIGH SCHOOL

Los Altos
Highland
Claremont
James Monroe
Saugus
Woodrow Wilson
South Gate
Valencia
Woodrow Wilson
Lancaster
Antelope Valley
Quartz
Lincoln
Summit View
Lancaster

Marin County**NAME**

Stephanie Berg

CITY

San Anselmo

HIGH SCHOOL

James R. Sylla NPS

Modoc County**NAME**

Preston Dennis

CITY

Alturas

HIGH SCHOOL

Modoc

Monterey County**NAME**

Ania Flatau

CITY

Pacific Grove

HIGH SCHOOL

Cypress Grove Charter

Napa County**NAME**

Alicia Rutherford
Brandon Johnson

CITY

American Canyon
Napa

HIGH SCHOOL

Vintage
Vintage

Orange County**NAME**

Albert Garcia
Lara Ameen

CITY

Santa Ana
Mission Viejo

HIGH SCHOOL

Saddleback
Tesoro

Riverside County**NAME**

Edwin Parker

CITY

Murrieta

HIGH SCHOOL

Murrieta

Sacramento County**NAME**

Mattie Hogan-Betchik
Michael Yamagata

CITY

Sacramento
Elk Grove

HIGH SCHOOL

Visual and Performing Arts Charter
Elk Grove

(more)

San Bernardino County**NAME**

Bertha Vazquez
Chantal Gatson
Clint Craig
Heidi Hardy
Jesse Hardy
Joey Bean
Myisha Harden
Tory Bland

CITY

Hesperia
Twentynine Palms
Newberry Springs
Crestline
Crestline
Victorville
Rialto
Twentynine Palms

HIGH SCHOOL

Sultana
Twentynine Palms
Silver Valley
Rim of the World
Rim of the World
Academy of Excellence
Eisenhower
Twentynine Palms

San Diego County**NAME**

Alez Perez
Dantwaun McLemore
Lindsey Newman
Heidi Sand
Zachary York

CITY

La Mesa
Escondido
Carlsbad
Oceanside
San Diego

HIGH SCHOOL

Grossmont
San Pasqual
La Costa Canyon
Vista
High Tech

San Joaquin County**NAME**

Brandy Dunlap
Kevin Chao

CITY

Stockton
Stockton

HIGH SCHOOL

Edison
Bear Creek

Santa Clara County**NAME**

Hannah Siegel

CITY

Santa Clara

HIGH SCHOOL

Cupertino

Sonoma County**NAME**

Chris Allen
Keegan Blong
Denny Burke

CITY

Sebastapol
Penngrove
Guerneville

HIGH SCHOOL

Analy
Petaluma
Sonoma Co. Office of Education
Transition Assistance Program

Sutter County**NAME**

Heather Curtz

CITY

Yuba City

HIGH SCHOOL

California School for the Blind/ Kennedy

Tehama County**NAME**

Ashlee Knowles

CITY

Red Bluff

HIGH SCHOOL

Red Bluff

Ventura County**NAME**

Kimberly Van Meter
Yeshua Baltazar

CITY

Santa Paula
Oxnard

HIGH SCHOOL

Santa Paula
Hueneme

#####